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Freight and Logistics E-News November 2006 (Vol. 4, No. 3)

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Still time to register for tenth annual Freight and Logistics Symposium

The tenth annual Freight and Logistics Symposium will be held on **December 1, 2006**, from 7:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., at the Four Points Sheraton Metrodome in Minneapolis. This year's symposium will focus on environmental innovations in freight transportation. Representatives from the business community, academia, and the public sector will describe environmentally sensitive approaches currently in use, as well as discuss new directions and trends within the industry for "greening" the supply chain. **Larry Lair**, general manager of 3M's Traffic Safety Systems Division, will make the keynote presentation, focusing on how 3M's small changes in packaging methods and freight transport have had major impact on the environment.

Minnesota Freight Advisory Committee fall meeting recap

The Minnesota Freight Advisory Committee (MFAC) met September 28, 2006, for its fall quarterly meeting in Bloomington, Minnesota.

Education, training, and safety

MFAC chair **Ron Have** moderated a panel on education, training, and safety programs and issues for freight transportation professionals and operators. **John Hausladen** of the Minnesota Trucking Association gave an overview of the driver shortage and its impact on the trucking industry, and he outlined strategies to recruit new drivers [[view presentation](#)]. **Gary Volkman**, Dart Transit, described the extensive involvement and commitment necessary for an effective and safe driver program [[view presentation](#)]. **Larry Raddatz**, Dakota County Technical College (DCTC), provided information about the growing demand for qualified rail workers and about DCTC's training and certification program [[view presentation](#)]. **Jim Daly**, Daly Agency/Great Western Insurance, spoke from an insurer's perspective regarding trucking industry driver recruitment and management.

Chairman's forum highlights

- **Ron Have**, MFAC Chair, spoke in support of the Transportation Amendment (Minnesota Vehicle Sales Tax Ballot Proposal) on this year's ballot and urged members to vote yes. For more information on this initiative, visit www.voteysmn.org. (Note: The Transportation Amendment passed with 57 percent of the vote.)
- **Dick Lambert**, Mn/DOT, spoke briefly about the Transportation Education Academy held June 19-23 and June 26-29 for teachers in all disciplines and grade levels. The academy is an eight-day workshop offered by St. Cloud State University and Mn/DOT.
- **Bill Gardner**, Mn/DOT, provided an update on the Minnesota Rail Service Improvement (MRSI) Program. Funds are used for improving, extending, and moving rail sidings, constructing grain storage bins, fertilizer storage facilities, and building warehouses along the rail siding, and improving rail car loading speed. For questions about the program or the application process, contact Janelle Collier at Mn/DOT, Janelle.Collier@dot.state.mn.us or 651-215-6230.

Shipper panel: freight capacity issues

MFAC chair Ron Have also moderated shipper panel reports on experiences and strategies dealing with freight transportation system capacity issues. **Dave Olsen**, regional transportation manager with Target, provided information about Target's supply chain and transportation programs, describing their partners, technology, network, supply chain, stores, and transportation [[view presentation](#)]. **Mark Sellner**, corporate transportation manager with Malt 'O Meal, gave an overview of Malt 'O Meal's supply chain and transportation systems. The privately owned company, the fourth largest cereal producer in the country, is the largest producer of bag cereals (28 varieties) and a leader in high-quality, private-label cereals [[view presentation](#)].

MFAC is a partnership between government and business to exchange ideas and recommend policy and actions that promote safe, productive, and sustainable freight transportation in Minnesota. MFAC consists of representatives from Minnesota's shipper and carrier communities, as well as a variety of other interested organizations. MFAC provides advice to the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Metropolitan Council regarding freight issues and investments. For more information, contact John Tompkins, Mn/DOT Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations at 651-215-6321 or john.tompkins@dot.state.mn.us.

FHWA 'Talking Freight' seminars

Upcoming topics and dates for the "Talking Freight" online seminars from the [Federal Highway Administration \(FHWA\)](#) are listed here. See the [Talking Freight Web site](#) for further details.

November 15, 2006 Urban Goods Movement 1:00 pm - 2:30 p.m. EST **December 20, 2006** Industry Performance Metrics 1:00 pm - 2:30 p.m. EST



Center for Transportation Studies
University of Minnesota
200 Transportation & Safety Building

511 Washington Ave SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Phone: 612-626-1077

Fax: 612-625-6381
E-mail: cts@umn.edu
[Location & Contact Information](#)

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